Part OR610 - National Environmental Compliance

SUBPART E - NEPA EXHIBITS

OR610.70 – Oregon Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (OR-EVT1)

OR610.71 – Oregon Evaluation Procedure and Documentation Guides

610 - National Environmental Compliance Handbook

OR190-610.E.70 – Oregon Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (OR-EVT1)

NEPA applies to any action over which NRCS has control and responsibility, including development or changes to programs, plans, policies or projects. GM190.410.3 establishes the NRCS Policy for NEPA compliance. The policy directs NRCS to:

- ✓ Provide technical and financial assistance through a systematic interdisciplinary approach to planning and decision making to insure a balance between the natural, physical, and social sciences.
- ✓ Consider environmental quality equal to economic, social, and other factors in decision making
- Ensure that plans satisfy identified needs and at the same time minimize adverse effects of planned actions on the human environment through interdisciplinary planning before providing technical and financial assistance.
- Counsel with highly qualified and experienced specialists as needed.
- ✓ Identify and make provisions for detailed survey, recovery, protection, or preservation of unique cultural resources
- ✓ Advocate the retention of important farmlands and forestlands, prime rangeland, wetlands, or other lands designated by state or local governments.
- Advocate the protection of valuable wetlands, threatened and endangered animal and plant species and their habitats, and designated ecosystems

NRCS is required to conduct an environmental evaluation (EE) for most conservation assistance related actions to determine the need for an EA or an EIS (See 610.E.72 for excluded actions). Planners document the results of the EE on an NRCS-CPA-52, "Environmental Evaluation Worksheet. (Exhibit 610.70).

Note: It is NRCS policy to conduct an environmental evaluation as a part of every planning activity, even if it is not considered a federal action for purposes of NEPA.

Oregon NRCS uses the OR-EVT-1 in lieu of the NRCS-CPA-52 for NEPA documentation. The <u>EE and Resource Inventory Checklist (OR-EVT1) – NPPH Oregon Exhibit 1</u>, is the only approved version for use in Oregon.

610 - National Environmental Compliance Handbook

OR190-610.E.71 - Oregon Evaluation Procedures

The following guide sheets will assist Oregon Conservation Planners evaluate resource concerns and to facilitate compliance with environmental policy.

OR-EVT-1CM Channel Modification

OR-EVT-1CR Cultural Resources

OR-EVT-1CWA Clean Water Act Section 404

OR-EVT-1CZ Coastal Zone Management Area

OR-EVT-1ECO Economics

OR-EVT-1FWC Fish & Wildlife Coordination

OR-EVT-1FP Floodplain Management

OR-EVT-1H Human and Social Concerns

OR-EVT-1IS Invasive Species

OR-EVT-1LR Landscape Resource

OR-EVT-1MSA Magnuson-Stevens Act

OR-EVT-1MB Migratory Birds

OR-EVT-1NA Natural Area

OR-EVT-1PUF Prime and Unique Farmlands

OR-EVT-1R Riparian Areas

OR-EVT-1SAS Special Aquatic Sites

OR-EVT-1TE Threatened and Endangered Species

OR-EVT-1W Wetlands

OR-EVT-1WS Wild and Scenic Rivers